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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **SAITOH, Shuji, et al.**

Allowed: **August 22, 2007**

Serial No.: **09/147,052**

Group Art Unit: **1645**

Filed: **April 5, 1999**

Examiner: **Brian J. GANGLE**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 1182

**FOR: NOVEL FUSION PROTEIN, GENE THEREOF, RECOMBINANT VECTOR
BEARING THE GENE AND RECOMBINANT VIRUS AS WELL AS USE
THEREOF**

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.181

MAIL STOP PETITION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 28, 2008

Sir:

This petition is in response to the Office communication dated December 28, 2007. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.181(b), Applicant here provides a Statement of Facts, Points to be Reviewed, and Action Requested.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1) An IDS was filed on September 25, 1998, citing seven references, including JP7-503842 and JP5-504253, and including copies of seven references and the PCT International Search Report mailed July 1, 1997. Copies are attached of: a) the IDS of September 25, 2007; b) the International Search Report; and c) the stamped return postcard indicating receipt of these documents.

2) The PTO-1449 from this IDS was returned with the Office action dated February 29, 2000, with references JP7-503842 and JP5-504253 lined through, and with no explanation of why they were lined through.

3) On August 28, 2007, a Request for Return of PTO-1449, which requested consideration of the lined-out references JP7-503842 and JP5-504253, was filed, stating that the original IDS was proper.

4) The issue fee was paid on November 16, 2007.

5) An Office communication was mailed December 28, 2007. The communication states that the Examiner was correct in not considering these references. Specifically, the Office communication states that no copy of JP7-503842 was provided and that there is no mention of this reference in the PCT search report. The Office communication also states, with regard to JP5-504253, that the reference is not in English, and there is no explanation of relevance of this reference in the PCT search report.

POINTS TO BE REVIEWED

Applicant here acknowledges that the citation of “JP7-503842” in the form 1449 of the original IDS of September 25, 1998, was a typographical error, and should have been “JP7-503843,” and that this is why the Examiners state that no copy of JP7-503842 was provided. (The copy of JP7-503843 was provided in the filing of September 25, 1998).

However, Applicant submits that **the original citation of JP5-504253 in the IDS of September 25, 1998, was proper**, and Applicant here requests that the JP5-504253 reference be considered in this application.

The two points to be reviewed are: 1) regarding the fact that the reference is not in English; and 2) regarding the concise explanation of relevance. Applicant argues with regard to the points to be reviewed, as follows:

1) With regard to whether or not the references are in English, 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(ii) requires “a copy of the translation **if** a written English-language translation of a non-English document, or a portion thereof, is within the possession, custody, or control or, or is readily available to any individual designated in 1.56(c)” (emphasis added). That is, an English translation is only required under these circumstances. In this respect, the original citation of the JP5-504253 reference was fully compliant with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(ii).

2) With regard to whether the PCT search report referenced in the IDS of September 25, 1998, provided a concise explanation of relevance, Applicant has attached a copy of the PCT International search report. JP50504253 is clearly referenced (on page 3) with an “A.” According

to MPEP 609.04(a)(III), this properly provides the concise explanation of relevance for this reference. Applicant submits that the Examiner is therefore incorrect in stating (in the communication of December 28, 2007) that “there is no explanation of relevance of [JP5-504253] in the PCT search report.” The original citation of JP5-504253 was fully compliant with 37 CFR 1.98 in this regard.

Applicant therefore submits that the citation of JP5-504253 in the IDS of September 25, 1998, was proper.

This Petition is timely because it is filed within two months of the Office communication mailed December 28, 2007.

ACTION REQUESTED

1) Applicant requests that the citation of JP5-504253 in the Information Disclosure statement of September 25, 1998, be considered by the USPTO to have been properly filed.

2) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the reference JP5-504253 be considered by the Examiner in this application, and that the form PTO-1449 listing this references be returned with this reference initialed by the Examiner.


3) The patent issuing for this application should list JP5-504253 as a reference considered by the Examiner.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/147,052**
Petition Under 37 CFR 1.181

While it is believed that no fee is required with this Petition, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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